

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 AID-05 MCT-01 /101 W

-----035710 250419Z /23

R 231900Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7989

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1940

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPSJX. , MR, AG, MO

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: POLISARIO ATTACKS OUTPOSTS NEAR ZOUERATE AND
OUADANE

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE DESPATCH AGUST 21
ATTRIBUTED TO "AUTHORIZED SOURCE" REPORTED THAT POLISARIO ATTACKED
MAURITANIAN MILITARY OUTPOST 12KM SOUTHEAST OF OUADANE(20-56N11-37W
ON THURSDAY EVENING AUGUST 18. ATTACK LEFT 14MAURITANIANS DEAD, 5
MAURITANIANS WOUNDED AND 13 POLISARIO DEAD. NEXT MORNING POLISARIO
ATTACKED MILITARY OUTPOST 20 KMS NORTH OF ZOUERATE. DURING THIS
ENGAGEMENT, FOUR MAURITAIANS WERE KILLED, 14 WOUNDED, AND 17
POLISARIO DEAD WERE LEFT BEHIND. POLISARIO ALSO LOST 6 LANDROVERS
IN ZOUERATE ATTACK. NEITHER OUADANE NOR ZOUERATE WAS ATTACKED.
ALL MAURITANIAN CASUALTIES WERE MILITARY. END UNCLASSIFIED
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2. BEGIN CLASSIFIED. GIRM MINISTER DEFENSE WHO WAS AFP'S
AUTHORIZED SOURCE CONFIMRED AFP REPORT, AND DECLARED MAURITANIANS XKA
TURED RUSSIAN-MADE 18.8MM MACHINE GUNS AND 23MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT
GUNS (2 BARREL), AS WELL AS TWO TRUCKS EQUIPPED WITH 75MM
FRENCH-MADE ANTI-AIRCRAFT CANNONS DURING 0800 TO 1200
ATTACK ON ZOUERATE. GIRM LOSSES INCLUDED THREE OFFICERS. MINISTER

DEFENSE ALSO TOLD EMBOFF THAT MAURITANIAN AIRCRAFT DESTROYED TWO ADDITIONAL POLISARIO LANDROVERS WHILE PURSUING WITHDRAWING POLISARIO. MINISTER REPORTED MOROCCANS HAD AMBUSHED POLISARIO AT BIR AIDIAT (40 K NORTHWEST OF BIR MOGREIN) ON SUNDAY AUGUST 21 IN A BATTLE THAT LASTED FROM 0800 UNTIL 1500. HE NOTED MOROCCAN F-5S HAVE FLOWN THREE MISSIONS AGAINST SURROUNDED POLISARIO UNIT WHICH CONSISTED OF 27 VEHICLES AS OF SUNDAY MORNING. MINISTER DECLARED POLISARIO STILL BEING PURSUED.

3. COMMENT:MIN DEFENSE BELIEVES GIRM FORCES HAVE EXACTED HEAVY PRICE FROM POLISARIO FOR ATTACKS ON OUADANE AND ZOUERATE OUTPOSTS (MINISTER BELIEVES SAME POLISARIO UNIT LAUNCHED BOTH ATTACKS. IN ADDITION PROVIDNG INFO PARA 1, MINDEFENSE INVITED AFP REPRESENTATIVE TO FLY TO ZOUERATE IN ORDER TO PHOTOGRAPH POLISARIO DEAD AND CAPTURED POLISARIO EQUIPMENT. AFP REP TOLD EMBOFF THAT PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH HAD RECENTLY ISSUED EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS FOR MORE FORTHCOMING INFORMATION POLICY, AND COMMENTED THAT GIRM DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CANDID AND GENEROUS WITH DETAILS ABOUT POLISARIO RAIDS AND GIRM MILITARY ACTIVITIES. IN ADDITION, GIRM OFFICIALS HAVE AGREED TO INTERNATIONAL TV NETWORK REQUEST TO COME TO MAURITANIA AND TO FILM IN ZOUERATE AREA. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED DAILY NEWSPAPER HAS NOT YET REPORTED EITHER ATTACEAN NEWS COLUMNS, EDITORIAL AUGUST 23 CASUALLY AND MATTER-OF-FACTLY REFERRED TO ATTACK ON ZOUERATE OUTPOST FRIDAY BY "ALGERIAN CONVOY OF 45 VEHICLES". REPORTED CASUALTIES OF CONFIDENTIAL

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BOTH SIDES, LISTED CAPTURED EQUIPMENT, AND ASSERTED REST OF POLISARIO COLUMN WAS AMBUSHED NEAR ALGERIAN FRONTIER WITH MOST OF REMAINING POLISARIO KILLED. END CONFIDENTIAL.

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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